

INFORMATION REPORT

SECRET

REPORT NO.

25X1A

Feb
5 13

COUNTRY Germany (French Zone)

SUBJECT KPD Directives to Communist Journalists
in the French Zone

**PLACE
ACQUIRED**

DATE OF INFO

CONFIDENTIAL

25X1A

**NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)**

**SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.**

Digitized by srujanika@gmail.com

- 25X1X

1

A Communist office of unspecified character in Hanover at the end of March 1948 issued secret directives to all Communist journalists in the three Western zones, including those employed by the non-partisan as well as by the Party press. At the beginning of April 1948, these directives were forwarded to ADP Land and district offices in the western zones and thence distributed through small conferences and meetings to the journalists affected. No written instructions were given the journalists themselves.

2

Communist journalists employed by the non-partisan press were instructed to improve their presentation of the KPD political line, not openly but by clever injection of Communist views into editorials and reports of political character. They were advised to increase their criticisms of the bizonal administration without necessarily identifying their attitude with that of KPD. They were also to undermine the belief of the French Zone population in an improvement of their situation through incorporation into a trizonal administration, pointing out that the present feed situation in the French Zone was actually better than that of Bizonia but would become worse through a merger. In this connection they were instructed to play particularly on the fears of many people that a trizonal system would mean automatic application of bizonal demazification laws in the French Zone, to emphasize the bizonal housing shortage, and to warn of a great migration of refugees into the French Zone if zone boundaries were removed. In general the journalists were told not to expose themselves too much as Communists in their expression of these views, because it was more important for them to keep their position in a non-partisan press than to work openly for the Party.

3

Besides this semi-covert campaign, the Communist Party press was to wage a direct and open fight. Not only should the western powers be painted out as monopoly capitalists, but the monopoly-capitalist nature of the biseasal administration should also be stressed. Mere prominence should be given to activities of Communist elements in the western zone Landtag, and emphasis should be placed on statements that only KPD deputies aimed at immediate alleviation of the misery of the working classes, while the other party delegates, particularly the Social Democrats, were mainly engaged in a struggle for office. The Party press as a whole was

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ in accordance with the
letter of 16 October 1978 from the
Director of Central Intelligence to the
Archivist of the United States.

CLASSIFICATION

~~SECRET~~

CONFIDENTIAL

~~SECRET~~

REFERENCE CENTER LIBRARY

Extracted by F.I.R.

~~SECRET~~

25X1A

~~SECRET~~

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

-2-

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

reprimanded for not allowing enough space to publication of progressive measures in the Russian Zone, eastern European countries, and the USSR and was instructed to apply psychology to its material and adapt it to local and regional conditions.

4. Communist journalists of both the Party and non-partisan press were directed to hold regular meetings at Local level to exchange experience and develop new ideas.

~~SECRET~~~~CONFIDENTIAL~~~~SECRET~~